

Washington D.C. – Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Congressman Tim Murphy (R-PA) were joined by 43 co-signers to send a joint letter to President Obama late Thursday expressing surprise and disappointment that the Treasury Department has once again declined to name China as a currency manipulator in the October 15th report to Congress. The letter urged the President to recognize China as illegally manipulating its currency, and to support the Ryan-Murphy bill to stop the harmful practice.

“I’m proud to be working with Congressman Murphy and a diverse group of our colleagues to fight on behalf of our American workers and American manufacturing” said Congressman Ryan.

“We need to start making things again in America. This petty, harmful trade practice has taken good jobs and investment out of our country, and I hope the President stands with us to stop it. If China stops cheating on their currency, it will mean billions of dollars that will be invested back into the United States. This can be a major stimulus and job creator for our Country.”

“When countries play by the rules, we can compete and win,” said Congressman Murphy.

“But when countries, such as China, do not play by the rules, when there is no fairness, when they cheat, make inferior products or break the rules it is time for our government to step up and enforce those rules. China has systematically manipulated its currency to create an unfair trade advantage over the United States and other global competitors. It is time to put this practice to an end. I ask that the President join Congressman Ryan and I in our efforts to stand up to China.”

China has long engaged in illegal currency misalignment. China's cumulative \$1.4 trillion trade surplus with the United States since 2001 should have had the natural economic effect of raising the value of the Yuan against the dollar to correct the trade imbalance. But by illegally subsidizing its exports through the undervaluation of its currency by 30 percent or more, China distorts the gains from trade, creates barriers to free and fair trade, harms U.S. industries, and has destroyed millions of U.S. jobs.

This past May, Congressman Ryan and Congressman Murphy introduced the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act of 2009 – H.R. 2378 (S. 1027 on the Senate side), which has been endorsed by the Fair Currency Coalition.

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The text of the letter follows.

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November 5, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We were both surprised and disappointed that the Treasury Department declined to name China as a currency manipulator in the October 15th report to Congress mandated by the 1988 Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act. The report's finding that "no major trading partner of the United States met the standards" of manipulating its currency to gain an unfair advantage in its trade balance or balance of payments shows that our standards must be re-evaluated. In order for us to revitalize our economy, it is imperative that we recognize the actions that contributed to the current recession.

This past May, a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers reintroduced the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, H.R. 2378, and S. 1027 on the Senate side. This bill would target exchange rate misalignment between the U.S. Dollar, Chinese Yuan and other major trading partners, in order to reduce the unnatural comparative advantages that command economies can use against market economies. We need to establish a firm approach to correcting this unfair trade practice, and defend American workers, industry and business that have been harmed by the unfair disadvantages in manufacturing and export that currency misalignment has created.

China continues to illegally subsidize products by a third of the costs by manipulating their currency to undercut American goods, and it's important that the Treasury Department stands with the work we are doing in Congress to stop illegal and unfair trade. We urge your support of this legislation – as you did during the 110th Congress -- and encourage you to take a strong stand on currency manipulation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you on protecting American workers from unfair trade.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan

Member of Congress

Tim Murphy

Member of Congress

Betty Sutton

Michael H. Michaud

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Peter J. Visclosky

Howard Coble

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Mike Rogers (AL-03)

Walter B. Jones

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Thomas S. P. Perriello

Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski

Member of Congress

Patrick T. McHenry

Member of Congress

Steve Buyer

Member of Congress

Phil Hare

Member of Congress

Harold Rogers

Member of Congress

Mark E. Souder

Member of Congress

Christopher John Lee

Member of Congress

Joe Donnelly

Member of Congress

Donald A. Manzullo

Member of Congress

Dan Burton

Lynn A. Westmoreland

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter

Marsha Blackburn

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro

Jerry F. Costello

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur

Joe Wilson

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Glenn Thompson

Michael Doyle

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Charles A. Wilson

Mike Rogers (MI-08)

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Todd Russell Platts

Bob Inglis

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

John D. Dingell

Christopher P. Carney

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Kathleen A. Dahlkemper

Member of Congress

Thaddeus G. McCotter

Member of Congress

Bob Filner

Member of Congress

Tim Holden

Member of Congress

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Hoekstra

Member of Congress

Peter

Member of Congress

Steve Kagen

Member of Congress

Bruce L. Braley

Member of Congress

Michael A. Arcuri

Member of Congress

Heath Shuler

Member of Congress

Dale E. Kildee

Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner

Secretary of the Treasury

U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220